

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13715 300332Z

64

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 DPW-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 RSC-01 INRE-00

SSO-00 /042 W

----- 031791

O R 300235Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9898

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13715

LIMDIS

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO 28 OCT 74.

REPEATED FOR YOU. QUOTE.

CAN THO 0320

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: MR-4 COMMANDER'S REACTION TO CORRUPTION ACCUSATIONS

1. MR4 COMMANDER LTG NGUYEN VINH NGHI MET WITH STAFF OFFICERS
THIS MORNING ON SUBJECT OF CORRUPTION CHARGES POSED AGAINST
HIM BY LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY, NGUYEN DUC CUAG AND HIS RESPONSE,
EXCERPTS OF WHICH APPEARED IN OCTOBER 25

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13715 300332Z

SAIGON PRESS. SUBSTANCE OF MEETING NOT YET KNOWN, BUT NGHI MET

WITH ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER AND APPEARED USUSUALLY UPSET. NGHI COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO REPLY TO FURTHER ACCUSATIONS.

2. NGHI'S COMMENTS TO INDICATE HE IS CONSIDERABLY LESS CONFIDENT OF HIS POSITION THAN HE HAS APPEARED IN PAST. HE SEEMS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT SAIGON OFFICIALS HAD "LEAKED" SUBSTANCE OF RECENT REPORT HE MADE TO JGS ON SUBJECT OF RF/PF, INADEQUATE AND MENTIONED THAT HE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, PROBABLY HAS ENEMIES. (COMMENT: NGHI'S ASSERTION THAT DETAILS OF ACCUSATION WERE UNCOVERED BY HIS OWN STAFF IS CORRECT. FIGURES ON SOLDIERS NOT PRESENT ON PAYDAY, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE CONTAINED IN A STUDY OF TERRITORIAL FORCES PREPARED IN EARLY OCTOBER, AND NGHI HAS PERSONALLY DISCUSSED WITH ME PROBLEM OF SOLDIERS PAYING FOR MEDICAL EVACUATION.) HOWEVER, SINCE PHENOMENA OF GHOST AND FLOWER SOLDIERING IS NOTHING NEW, NGHI CAN NOT HONESTLY SHIRK RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS LACK OF COMMAND ACTION BY PLACING BLAME ON SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS AS HE ATTEMPTED IN HIS RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: GROWING CRITICISM OF NGHI'S HANDLING OF TERRITORIAL SECURITY SITUATION IN MR4 ORIGINATED IN JGS. SOME SPECIFIC CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST NGHI SUCH AS NEED FOR SOLDIERS TO PURCHASE HAND GRENADES ARE CLEARLY UNJUSTIFIED. HOWEVER, WEB OF CORRUPTION IN MR4 IS TOO WIDESPREAD FOR COMMANDER TO PLAUSIBLY DENY KNOWLEDGE. ITS PERVASIVENESS HAS CERTAINLY ADVERSELY AFFECTED MILITARY EFFICIENCY AND HAS BEEN EROSIVE OF MORALE. IN HIS PROGRAM TO IMPROVE RF/PF SENT TO JGS IN JUNE, NGHI CLEARLY REORGANIZED NATURE OF PROBLEMS WHICH DEBILITATE TERRITORIAL FORCES. (CAN THO 257). HOWEVER, DETERIORATION HAS CONTINUED WITH LITTLE EFFECTIVE CORRECTIVE ACTION BEING TAKEN, ASIDE FROM EXHORTATION TO PROVINCE CHIEFS QUESTION NOW MUST BE PASSED AS TO WHETHER NGHI IS HIMSELF SO ENMESHED IN "SYSTEM" THAT HE IS UNCAPABLE OF TAKING ACTION REQUIRED TO BRING ABOUT BASIC CHANGE IN SITUATION. SIGNED MCNAMARA. UNQUOTE. MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, MILITARY PERSONNEL, DEFAMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740309-0289
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974106/aaaaaeyn.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MR-4 COMMANDER'S REACTION TO CORRUPTION ACCUSATIONS
TAGS: PINT, VS, (NGUYEN VINH NGHI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005